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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

A GUIDED ARTIFICIAL BEE COLONY(GABC) HEURISTIC FOR
PERMUTATION FLOWSHOP SCHEDULING PROBLEM (PFSP)

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**A GUIDED ARTIFICIAL BEE COLONY (GABC) HEURISTIC FOR
PERMUTATION FLOWSHOP SCHEDULING PROBLEM (PFSP)**

NOOR AZIZAH BINTI SIDEK

A thesis submitted in
fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the
Doctor of Philosophy



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JAN 2021

I hereby declare that the work in this project report is my own except for quotations
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This thesis is dedicated to

My parents, Allahyarham Sidek bin Hashim and Zainab binti Mohmad

My husband, Azli bin Nawawi

and to

My three beautiful children,

Muhammad Naufal,

Naurah Elena,

and

Naurah Elana



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ABSTRACT

Flowshop is the most common production system in the industry, and there are many documented efforts to improve the performance of the flowshop. The range spreads from the usage of heuristics to metaheuristics, and one of the promising methods is NEH (Nawaz, Ensore & Ham) heuristics. This study aims to improve NEH, using an enhanced version of Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) algorithm because the original one has the problem of slow converge speed. As a result, this study will propose a mechanism to improve the convergence speed of ABC because faster convergence speed is the ability to find high-quality results in lesser iterations compared to others. The study clusters the Employed Bees (EB) and Onlooker Bees (OB) into several groups: Total Greedy, Semi Greedy and Non-Greedy. Upon completion, the study selected the Total Greedy (3+0+0) because of the leading performance in makespan value (performance indicator), and the author used it for the rest of this study. This study proposed two variants of the guided initial ABC or Guided Artificial Bee Colony (GABC) with one variant (NEH-based ABC), employing the concept of NEH and the second variant (GABC), employing the concept of NEH and First Job Sequence Arrangement Method. The study experimented according to ten datasets of Taillard benchmark and divided the experiments into several categories and the experiments run every data for several iterations, and for each dataset, there are 20 replications. This study compared the performance of NEH, ABC, NEH-based ABC and GABC, which also act as the validation process. Based on the results, ABC produced inconsistent results for a significant amount of times and interestingly, GABC, NEH-based ABC and ABC produced 68.75%, 63.33% and 0.01% results that are better than NEH, respectively. The data also shows that GABC is 37.9% better than its variant. Finally, the author can conclude that this study demonstrated the slow convergence issue of ABC.

ABSTRAK

Flowshop merupakan sistem pembuatan yang paling kerap digunakan di industry dan terdapat pelbagai usaha yang telah didokumenkan bagi meningkatkan keupayaan *flowshop*. Kaedah yang digunakan juga pelbagai, bermula dari heuristik ke heuristik-meta dan kaedah yang paling popular adalah heuristik Nawaz, Ensore dan Ham (NEH). Kajian ini bertujuan untuk meningkat potensi NEH, menggunakan algoritma *Artificial Bee Colony (ABC)* yang telah dipertingkat kerana versi asal ABC adalah agak perlahan untuk mendapatkan penyelesaian berkualiti tinggi. Oleh itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk menjadikan ABC berupaya menjana penyelesaian yang baik dalam jumlah iterasi yang lebih rendah. Kajian ini membahagikan *Employed Bees (EB)* dan *Onlooker Bees (OB)* kepada beberapa kluster: *Total Greedy*, *Semi Greedy* dan *Non-Greedy*. Setelah ujikaji dijalankan, *Total Greedy* dipilih kerana menjana masa siap yang paling baik dan penulis menggunakan pilihan ini di keseluruhan projek. Kajian ini mengetengahkan dua varian *guided initial ABC* atau *GABC*, dimana varian pertama (ABC berdasarkan NEH), menggunakan konsep NEH dalam pengoperasian. Varian kedua pula (*GABC*), menggunakan konsep NEH dan teknik *first job sequence arrangement*. Ujikaji dijalankan berdasarkan data dari Piawaian Taillard dan membahagikan ujikaji kepada beberapa kategori. Ujikaji juga dijalankan dengan beberapa nilai iterasi, dan setiap set data perlu menjalani 20 sesi ulangan. Kajian ini membandingkan prestasi NEH, ABC, ABC berdasarkan NEH dan GABC, dan peringkat ini juga dinamakan proses validasi. Berdasarkan hasil ujikaji, ABC didapati menjana keputusan yang tidak konsisten dalam kekerapan yang tinggi. Agak menarik kerana keputusan yang dihasilkan oleh GABC, ABC berdasarkan NEH dan ABC, 68.75%, 63.33% dan 0.01% lebih baik dari NEH secara keseluruhan. Data ujikaji juga menunjukkan GABC adalah 37.9% lebih baik berbanding variannya iaitu ABC berdasarkan NEH. Akhir sekali, dapat disimpulkan bahawa kajian ini menunjukkan demonstrasi berkaitan isu *convergence* yang perlahan oleh algoritma ABC.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ABC</i>	-	Artificial Bee Colony
<i>ACO</i>	-	Ant Colony Optimization
<i>BMSA</i>	-	Bi-objective Multi-start Simulated Annealing algorithm
<i>CDS</i>	-	Campbell, Dudek, and Smith
<i>DE</i>	-	Differential Evolution
<i>DLS</i>	-	Dynamic Local Search
<i>DNEH</i>	-	Discrete Nawaz Ensore Ham heuristic
<i>DPFSP</i>	-	Distributed Permutation Flowshop Scheduling Problem
<i>EA</i>	-	Evolutionary Algorithm
<i>EC</i>	-	Evolutionary Computation
<i>ES</i>	-	Evolutionary Strategy
<i>GA</i>	-	Genetic Algorithm
<i>GABC</i>	-	Guided Artificial Bee Colony
<i>GRASP</i>	-	Greedy Randomized Adaptive Search Procedure
<i>IG</i>	-	Iterated Greedy
<i>ILS</i>	-	Iterated Local Search
<i>MA</i>	-	Memetic Algorithm
<i>NC</i>	-	Nature Computing
<i>NEH</i>	-	Nawaz Ensore Ham
<i>NP</i>	-	Non-Deterministic Polynomial Time
<i>PF</i>	-	Profile-fitting
<i>PFH</i>	-	Profile-fitting Heuristics
<i>PFSP</i>	-	Permutation Flowshop Scheduling Problem

<i>PSO</i>	- Particle Swarm Optimization
<i>RTS</i>	- Reactive Tabu Search
<i>SA</i>	- Simulated Annealing
<i>SPV</i>	- Smallest Position Value
<i>SS</i>	- Scatter Search
<i>TA</i>	- Threshold Accepting
<i>TC</i>	- Trial Counter
<i>TS</i>	- Tabu Search
<i>VNS</i>	- Variable Neighbourhood Search
<i>WBS</i>	- Work Breakdown Structure
<i>FSS</i>	- Flowshop Scheduling
<i>FSP</i>	- Flowshop Scheduling Problem
<i>ACS</i>	- Ant Colony System
<i>MOACSA</i>	- Multi-objective Ant Colony System Algorithm
<i>HAMC</i>	- Hybrid Algorithms for Multicriterion
<i>CR (MC)</i>	- Chandrasekharan Rajendran (Multicriterion)
<i>AIS</i>	- Artificial Immune System
<i>FSH</i>	- Hybrid Flowshop
<i>CPU</i>	- Computer Processing Unit
<i>MCFMS</i>	- Multi-Cell Flexible Manufacturing System
<i>SEAIS</i>	- Self-Evolving Artificial Immune System
<i>AIS-IG</i>	- Artificial Immune System Iterated Greedy
<i>DABC</i>	- Discrete Artificial Bee Colony
<i>hDDE</i>	- Hybrid Discrete Differential Evolution
<i>EDA</i>	- Estimation Distribution Algorithm
<i>hGLS</i>	- Hybrid Genetic Local Search
<i>EDD</i>	- Earliest Due Date
<i>LSL</i>	- Last Slack Time

<i>OSL</i>	- Overall Slack Time
<i>IABC</i>	- Improved Artificial Bee Colony
<i>IBFSP</i>	- Flowshop Scheduling Problem with Intermediate Buffers
<i>EB</i>	- Employed Bee
<i>OB</i>	- Onlooker Bee
<i>SB</i>	- Scout Bees
<i>HABC</i>	- Hybrid Pareto-based Artificial Bee Colony
<i>JSP</i>	- Job Shop Scheduling
<i>DPSO</i>	- Discrete Particle Swarm Optimization
<i>APRI</i>	- Aspartate Aminotransferase to Platelet Ratio Index
<i>PSOVNS</i>	- Particle Swarm Optimization Variable Neighbourhood Search
<i>PSOMA</i>	- Particle Swarm Optimization based Memetic Algorithm
<i>VBA</i>	- Visual Basic for Application
<i>EBOB</i>	- Employed Bee and Onlooker Bee
<i>SDST</i>	- Sequence Dependent Setup Times
<i>EM</i>	- Electromagnetism-like mechanism
<i>MILP</i>	- Mixed Integer Linear Programming
<i>tsGLS</i>	- Genetic Algorithm Hybridized with Tabu Search
<i>vIG_DE</i>	- Variable iterated greedy algorithm (IG) with differential evolution
<i>NEHedd</i>	- Algorithm of Nawaz, Ensore and Ham with EDD rule for preprocessing
<i>MOGA</i>	- Energy-efficient Genetic Algorithm
<i>MOGALS</i>	- A variant of MOGA
<i>MASC</i>	- Memetic algorithm with novel semi-constructive crossover and mutation operators
<i>HPSO</i>	- A hybrid algorithm based on particle swarm optimization
<i>LPT</i>	- Longest-Processing-Time-first algorithm
<i>FCFS</i>	- First Come First Serve

<i>FIFO</i>	-	First In First Out
<i>LCFS</i>	-	Last Come, First Served
<i>SPT</i>	-	Shortest Processing Time



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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Challenges of Flowshop Scheduling

Fast, customised, and efficient are the benefits of a flowshop, which Fan & Winley (2008) described as a fabrication facility used to manufacture one or more types of products. The focus of the flowshop is to make products with the highest quality in the shortest time. The flowshop system has a fixed job flow, and this criterion is quite useful for a high quantity production system (Bandyopadhyay, 2019; Fan & Winley, 2008; Park, 1976). The flowshop is also the goal of a lean system, and it is easier to control compared to other system types such as Job Shop and Project Shop (Pinedo, 2012). The most significant advantage of the flowshop is repeatability, and it has a linear machines arrangement, and the system processes each job at every machine, with only in one direction (Groover, 2016). Permutation flowshop scheduling problem (PFSP) is one of the most discussed problems in FSP. The purpose of PFSP is to find the best processing (job) sequence to satisfy the optimization requirement. In most of the literature, the objective PFSP optimization is the makespan, which is considered as an act to minimize the total completion time for the production processes (Liu & Liu, 2013; Naderi & Ruiz, 2014; Sidek & Bareduan, 2014).

The main challenge of using the flowshop is to find the best job sequence that will minimise the makespan (Gupta & Stafford, 2006). It is crucial because if the manufacturer can churn out a product faster, it will enter the market early, and the manufacturer will have a higher chance of gaining the market share (Wolde, Berhan, & Jilcha, 2018). Managing the production process with the need for the scheduling

processes take part is not easy and is considered as NP-hard (Garey, Johnson, & Sethi, 2008a; Kan & Kan, 2011). Since it is NP-hard, the heuristic method is the best way of solution for the flowshop problem (Liu & Liu, 2013). After Johnson introduced the flowshop problem (Johnson, 1954), it has been a magnet for research. Previous studies proposed a few problems solving approaches using a heuristic method such as Palmer heuristic (Palmer, 1965), Gupta heuristic (Gupta, 1971), CDS (Campbell, Dudek, & Smith, 1970) heuristic, and NEH heuristic (Nawaz, Ensore, & Ham, 1983a). Nawaz, Ensore and Ham introduced the NEH heuristic around three decades ago, but the scheduling community still consider it as superior due to its ability to minimize the makespan of Permutation Flowshop Scheduling Problems (PFSP) effectively. The majority still prefer NEH for its priority order method, and this helps to achieve near-optimum solutions (Framinan, Leisten, & Rajendran, 2003).

NEH also has shortcomings, and more research appears to improve NEH such as done by Taillard (1990) which applies Tabu Search. A study by Kalczynski & Kamburowski (2008a) focuses on improving NEH by proposing a new priority order with a simple tie-breaking method. Another effort for improving NEH is made by Ruiz & Stützle (2007) by selecting the proper solutions to put into NEH using the iterated greedy solution.

NEH is powerful, but it does not utilize the random selection criteria, and the ability to use the random selection of solutions will result in more possibilities of better solutions (Emmons & Vairaktarakis, 2013). From this point of view, the effort to utilize the metaheuristics seems to be next step, with the hope of finding a method that is superior to NEH. Kouki, Guenaoui, and Jemni (2016) focused on the parameter tuning of the Genetic Algorithm (GA) for solving PFSP, and the study managed to churn out a better version of GA. Wang and Yin (2013) also discussed the parameter tuning of the GA and the parameters in consideration are the number of population, probability of crossover and probability of mutation. The parameter tuning process managed to produce a better version of GA. Nowicki & Smutnicki (1996) proposed an algorithm based on the tabu search technique with the application of a block of jobs notion. Another effort made using tabu search was by Gao, Chen, and Deng (2013) by proposing a tabu search algorithm for solving Distributed permutation flowshop scheduling problem (DPFSP). This algorithm exploited a novel tabu search strategy and enhanced the local search method, and it performed better than GA.

NEH is very effective for solving PFSP and some research utilizes the concept of NEH to make their algorithm perform better. Kurdi (2020) proposed a memetic algorithm (MA) combined with a novel semi-constructive crossover and mutation operators (MASC) to solve PFSP. The MASC used in the research is a combination of genetic algorithm (GA), simulated annealing (SA), and NEH algorithm. Öztöp, Tasgetiren, Eliiyi, Pan, and Kandiller (2020) proposed a novel PFH_NEH(x) which is the combination of profile-lifting (PF) constructive heuristic and NEH algorithm. The main reason for the team to choose NEH is because it is a simple and effective heuristics for solving PSFP. Wang, Gao, Li, Li, and Tasgetiren (2020) proposed a hybrid version of the whale swarm algorithm with DNEH. In the study, DNEH is used to optimize the makespan's initial solution objective.

Lin and Ying (2013) proposed a bi-objective multi-start simulated annealing algorithm (BMSA) to solve the PFSP by minimizing the makespan. The researchers tested the algorithm using the Taillard benchmark, and as a result, the BMSA managed to contribute 64% of the solutions in the non-dominated front. Osman and Potts (1989) proposed the simulated annealing method to optimize PFSP and experimented with problems of up to 20 machines and 100 jobs. From the study, the researchers found that simulated annealing produced slightly better results compared to NEH in some cases.

When it comes to the ant colony algorithm, Ahmadizar (2012) proposed a novel ACO algorithm which initializes the pheromone trails based on the initial sequence. The algorithm also employs a local search to improve the solution quality, and it managed to perform better than other variants of ant colony optimization in the literature at that time. Mirabi (2011) utilized the ACO algorithm on the sequence dependent PFSP with modifications to the approach for computing pheromone values and the employment of a local search. Meanwhile, Tasgetiren, Liang, Sevkli, and Gencyilmaz (2007) managed to utilize a modified Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) algorithm for solving PFSP. Modifications made to the PSO algorithm are the application of a heuristic rule named smallest position value (SPV), genetic algorithm (GA), random keys for sequencing and optimization, and the variable neighbourhood search (VNS). In 2004, the same researchers embedded the VNS in the PSO algorithm for solving PFSP, and it produced competitive results. For the total flowtime and makespan criteria (2007 version), the modified PSO managed to improve the solutions

generated by other competitive algorithms with 63% and 24.4%, respectively (Tasgetiren et al., 2007).

Tasgetiren, Pan, Suganthan, and Chen, (2010) proposed the Discrete Artificial Bee Colony (DABC) algorithm with the inclusion of the iterated greedy (IG) and iterated local search (ILS) algorithm. The researchers compared the algorithm to the estimation distribution algorithm (EDA) and hybrid genetic local search (hGLS), and it managed to improve 43 out of 60 solutions. In 2011, the same research team proposed the DABC with hybrid differential evolution algorithms, and the results were quite competitive (Tasgetiren, Pan, Suganthan, & Chen, 2011). Liu and Liu (2013) proposed a hybrid discrete artificial bee colony (HDABC) that utilised Greedy Randomized Adaptive Search Procedure (GRASP) inspired by NEH heuristics. HDABC also used discrete operators and algorithms to generate new solutions and it applied the local search to find the best one. From the literature, the author can conclude that the efforts to improve the ABC algorithm in solving PFSP in an ongoing journey. There will always be some aspects of the algorithm that can be enhanced.

Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) algorithm is preferred in this study because it has fewer parameters to control compared to other population-based algorithms. ABC algorithm is also a robust, fast to converge, and flexible type of algorithm (Anam, 2017; Ayan & Kiliç, 2012). ABC is also known to perform better than Genetic Algorithm, Differential Equation (DE) and Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) (Karaboga & Basturk, 2008; Karaboga & Akay, 2009; Karaboga & Basturk, 2007; Sulaiman, Mohamad-Saleh, & Ghani Abro, 2013). Other than that, ABC is proven to produce good results in optimizing permutation flowshop scheduling (Marinakakis, Marinaki, & Matsatsinis, 2009; Tasgetiren et al., 2010).

1.2 Problem Statements

Lately, the ABC algorithm has attracted several researchers in studying its capability for solving manufacturing scheduling problems. Chong, Sivakumar, Low, and Gay, (2006a) used the ABC methodology to construct schedules for job shop problems; Pan, Fatih Tasgetiren, Suganthan, and Chua (2011) proposed a discrete ABC algorithm to solve lot-streaming flowshop scheduling while (Tasgetiren, Pan, Suganthan, & Chen,

2010) reported the ABC application for permutation flowshop scheduling problem (PFSP) using total flowtime criterion. Hakli and Kiran (2020) proposed three search equations for the employed bees and another three for onlooker bees to improve the slow convergence problem. Wang, Shi, and Wang (2020) proposed a formula for location update into ABC to improve the optimization's iterative process. The group also integrate the scout bee phase with a beta distribution function to prevent the ABC to fall easily into local extremum. All these researchers have identified the weakness of ABC is that it is always slow to converge. As such, it will be useful to recommend the future works to be focused directly on establishing mechanisms to help the ABC converge with a low number of iterations.

The original ABC algorithm is known to be slow to converge (Banharnsakun, Achalakul, & Sirinaovakul, 2011; Luo, Wang, & Xiao, 2013; Sulaiman et al., 2013), and when it comes to PFSP, this drawback will delay the process of getting high-quality makespan values. The algorithm works in the iteration mode, which means that it will repeat the same process to find a better solution as the iteration goes. As the iteration proceeds, the candidate solutions tend to get closer to the desired location and this is when the convergence occurs (Gao & Cao, 2012; Trelea, 2003). In ABC, the researchers claimed that the convergence speed is quite slow, and the algorithm will take some time to get the desired solution (Chen, Daud, Zhou, & Elisha Nyamasvisva, 2019; Shubham Gupta & Deep, 2020; Zhang, 2020). The exploitation and exploration activities in the algorithm are said to be well balanced but the convergence speed is still wide open for improvement and ABC is easy to fall into local optimum (Banharnsakun et al., 2011; Gupta & Deep, 2020).

Based on the above literature review, the author can conclude that it is beneficial to explore the ABC algorithm further in the context of solving scheduling and other optimization problems. To improve the ABC effectiveness, an additional mechanism must be added to the current algorithms to help it converge to the desired performance measures. This study aims towards developing a new, improved ABC algorithm consisting of additional converging mechanisms that will make it converge more effectively. To achieve the mentioned goal and based on the trends in the previous related works, researchers tend to assimilate the concept of the leading heuristics, NEH in the development of their algorithm. The common practice is to employ the NEH arrangement in their proposal and hybridizing the NEH concept in

their algorithms. However, the practice of utilizing the first job sequence method is never reported and for that reason, this study aims to use the method to improve the performance of ABC in solving PFSP. The whole process is known as a new Guided Artificial Bee Colony (GABC) heuristic specifically intended for solving PFSP.

1.3 Research Objectives

This study embarks on the following objectives:

- i. To determine the effectiveness of the ABC algorithm using different bee characteristics in optimizing PFSP.
- ii. To improve a new heuristic identified as Guided Artificial Bee Colony (GABC) heuristic to solve PFSP.
- iii. To assess the convergence performance of the GABC heuristic against the normal ABC algorithm method.

1.4 Research Scopes

This study consisted of several scopes:

- i. This study focuses on permutation flowshop scheduling problems (PFSP).
- ii. This study focuses on developing an appropriate algorithm representing the clustered behaviour that is useful to improve the scheduling solution from the normal ABC method. In the behaviour clustering, the bees are grouped into similar behaviour in the context of trial counter number and location of bees.
- iii. Visual Basic for Application (VBA) coding embedded within Microsoft Excel is used to develop the GABC program to evaluate flowshop scheduling solutions.
- iv. This study utilizes the iteration limits from 500 to 5000 iterations. The number of EB and OB is set between 5 to 15 and the swarm size is limited to 10 until 30.

1.5 Thesis Organization

This chapter presents a brief introduction about the challenges in PFSP, and many efforts by previous researchers to improve the system. The author also highlighted the weaknesses of the ABC algorithm to expose the need to work on a solution. This chapter also covers the objectives and scopes of the study, and the author ended the introduction chapter with the organization of the thesis.

In the next chapter, the study uncovers some theories and significant contributions related to production scheduling, permutation flowshop scheduling problems, metaheuristics used in solving PFSP, and ABC algorithm. This chapter is a strong base for the author to develop the research methodology.

The third chapter covers the general research methodology for this study. In this chapter, the author explained the processes for developing the research methodology.

The fourth chapter focuses on the contribution of the study and the steps to develop the novelty. The author explained the procedure to develop the Guided Artificial Bee Colony (GABC) algorithm.

In the fifth chapter, the study covers the details about the performance measurement of GABC. This chapter also documented the results and discussion for this study as well as the validation process.

Finally, the final chapter provides a conclusion for this study and some recommendations for future works. Moreover, this section also highlighted the contributions made by this study.

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CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter focuses on the fundamental theories and knowledge related to the research topics such as scheduling, PFSP, optimization methods, and ABC algorithm. This chapter starts with the broader scope of scheduling and the author will narrow down the scope to the application of the nature-inspired algorithm in solving PFSP.

2.1 Introduction to Scheduling

Scheduling is a decision-making process used in the manufacturing and services industries. The main objective of scheduling applications in both industries is to minimize the completion time or makespan (Lapierre & Ruiz, 2007).

Scheduling is also known as a plan made to fulfil a particular objective. Other elements included in the plan are the time frame and activities of a particular project or process. Additionally, scheduling is useful for assigning workers for a particular job when the project is ongoing. Interestingly, the scheduling process can also help to optimize a system to make it work with better efficiency (Md Fauadi & Murata, 2010). This process is feasible by performing a well-executed scheduling process. From here, the author can claim that a scheduling system can improve the output of a particular system. In most cases, scheduling is useful for determining the duration needed to complete an activity, the completion time, and the predecessor activities (Kerzner, 2013; Lapierre & Ruiz, 2007; Pinedo, 2012).

Similarly, scheduling is also known as a way to manage a particular project as it provides the guidance and pathway that need to complete a project. Scheduling also contains the milestones for completing a particular project (Ballard, 2000). Scheduling is also useful for improving productivity, reducing delivery cost and utilizing the manufacturing resources optimally (Md Fauadi & Murata, 2010).

In some industries, scheduling is very crucial for transportation and distribution settings, and it will also assist most industries in fulfilling their customers' demands while minimizing the total setup time. Moreover, proper scheduling can maximize the throughput of a particular production enterprise. This step can be done by improving the equipment utilization, and from here, scheduling can minimize the number of idle times and setup times. Interestingly, scheduling is also able to minimize the amount of work needed to achieve specific goals, and it is also a useful tool to minimize delays in the production process because the delays in production are equal to the low reliability of the company (Pinedo, 2012). Typical applications of scheduling are 1) Procurement and production, 2) Transportation and distribution, and 3) Information processing and applications (Sauer, 1999).

The practitioners change the plan and control production over time due to customer requirements and environment and technology improvements. Therefore effective manufacturing control processes based on planning and scheduling represent the key to the success of a manufacturing company (Vollmann, William, Whybark, & Jacobs, 2005). Scheduling as a decision process represents an essential tool to determine the sequential order of activities identified by the work breakdown structure (WBS), as part of the project scope (Baldwin & Bordoli, 2014). To do that, the practitioners must perform a well-executed scheduling process. From here, the author can conclude that a scheduling system can improve the output of a particular system.

2.2 Production Scheduling

Production scheduling is known as the process of arranging, controlling, and optimizing all the production budget timescale for every phase of a business project. It has robust and complicated precedence relationships between the manufacturing activities and the production resources. The available production resources and in-

house capacity must be adequate, which deserves to enhance the current resources utilization to fulfil the critical tasks or customer demands (Baker, 1974; Leitão, 2009). The production environment also contains high levels of uncertainty, which leads to a more complex situation.

Flowshop scheduling as a class of scheduling problems is a particular case of production scheduling. Practitioners use different techniques to solve industrial scheduling problems, and recently, most of the studies have turned to deal with simulation and artificial intelligence techniques. These methods have demonstrated a significant step forward in solving Flowshop Scheduling (FSS) problem with less computational exertion and more powerful results. Given this section, a brief survey of the FSS issues is presented based on previous works (Pinedo, 2012; Ruiz & Maroto, 2005).

2.3 Flowshop Scheduling

A sound scheduling system will contribute directly to the performance of a manufacturing enterprise. In industries, the most common scheduling layout is the flowshop scheduling problem (FSP). Additionally, the practitioners apply the FSP in a manufacturing environment where a family of products (with some similar features) to be manufactured (Fan & Winley, 2008; Moccellini, 1995; Naderi & Ruiz, 2014a)

Flowshop scheduling is one of three main problems of shop scheduling; the other two problems are open shop scheduling and the job shop. Generally, if the job shop has n jobs to be processed through m machine. In this case, the number of possible sequences is $(n!)^m$, where n represents the number of jobs, and m represents the number of machines, as shown in Figure 2.1. The flowshop scheduling problem is consequent of the job shop where all jobs contain the same technological sequence. It has the same amount of operations for each route of machines, and each job should pass the same. The objective is to find the best sequence of jobs based on applying for the same order according to technological constraints. The decision of scheduling problems will concern two bases (Jemni & Ladhari, 2011; Park, 1976):

- i. At least two machines should consider the sequence for orders of the jobs.
- ii. The machine loading schedule considers the time sequence of each machine for different jobs.

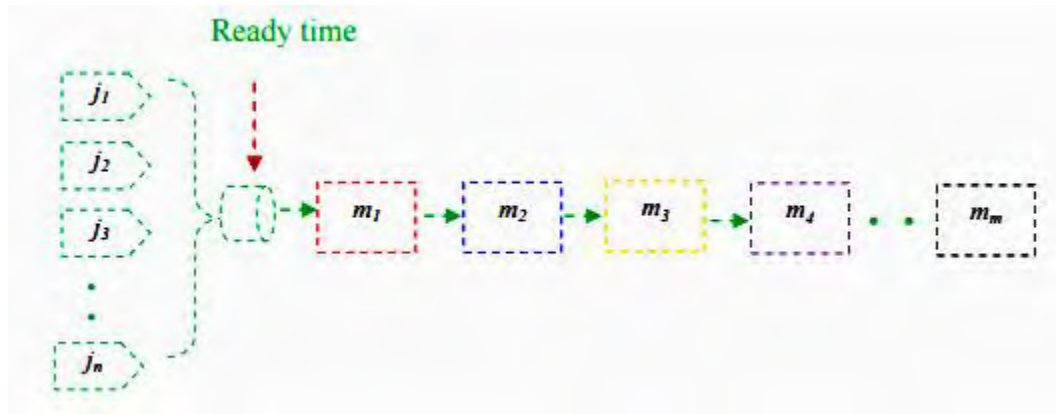


Figure 2.1: Flowshop problem (Garey, Johnson, & Sethi, 2008)

For that, researchers agree to consider the flowshop scheduling problem is NP-hard problem (Garey, Johnson, & Sethi, 2008b; Park, 1976). Furthermore, the first step to investigate the effective optimization method in the scheduling problem is by specifying the scheduling objectives. The objective classification paves the way to analyses the critical parameters to detect the root cause.

2.3.1 NP-Hard Problems

NP-hard (non-deterministic polynomial-time hard) is a class of the hardest problems in computer science. Non-deterministic means that to get the solution of a problem, one has to go through the trial and error process (Laudis, Shyam, Suresh, & Kumar, 2018). There is no exact solution for the NP-hard problems but it gets better after the iterations process. The obtained solution from the optimization process will always converge near to the exact solution (Mahapatra, Dash, & Pradhan, 2017).

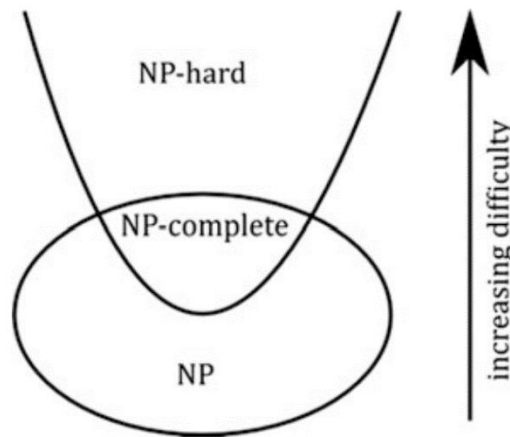


Figure 2.2: Hierarchy of problems based on solving difficulties (Laudis et al., 2018)

NP-hard is a class of problems that have the same or higher level of hardness compared to the hardest problems in NP (refer to Figure 2.2). Generally, P-class are problems that can be solved in polynomial time and NP-class problems are harder than the P-class. The problems under this category are hard to solve but easy to check (Mahapatra et al., 2017). NP-problems can be solved by the non-deterministic Turing machine in polynomial time (Laudis et al., 2018; Woeginger, 2003a).

NP-hard is a sophisticated way to describe the complex and difficult problems and it is also considered as the initial steps to the development of approximate algorithms which are not able to provide an exact answer for a problem because these algorithms are only capable of finding a near-optimum solution (Woeginger, 2003b; Yang, 2008).

The NP-hard problems are common and available in various fields such as approximate computing, configuration, cryptography, data mining, decision support, planning, process monitoring and control, routing/vehicle routing, scheduling and phylogenetics (Yang, 2008).

Product manufacturing may involve a few jobs that are completed by several machines. Each job has to be performed sequentially on different machines in the production line. This kind of scenario is known as Flowshop. Additionally, the process focus on doing the operations in the flowshop on all jobs in the same order (sequence). All jobs need to go through the same series of machines in a predetermined sequence, and the machines are in a series arrangement. Usually, the problem to be solved in a flowshop is to find the minimum completion time of the processing time of the last job

(on the last machine). This kind of scenario is also known as the makespan (Jemni & Ladhari, 2011; Pinedo, 2012; Eric Taillard, 1990).

To depict an example of flowshop scheduling, Table 2.1 shows the lists of processing times for each job on a particular machine. The makespan value is equal to the total time needed to complete all jobs, and based on the example in Table 2.1, the makespan value is 47 minutes (refer Figure 2.3).

Table 2.1: Processing time example of 6 jobs in 3 machines

Number of Jobs	Number of Machines		
	Machine 1	Machine 2	Machine 3
Job 1	5	6	8
Job 2	4	5	7
Job 3	7	5	6
Job 4	6	4	5
Job 5	5	3	6
Job 6	8	3	4

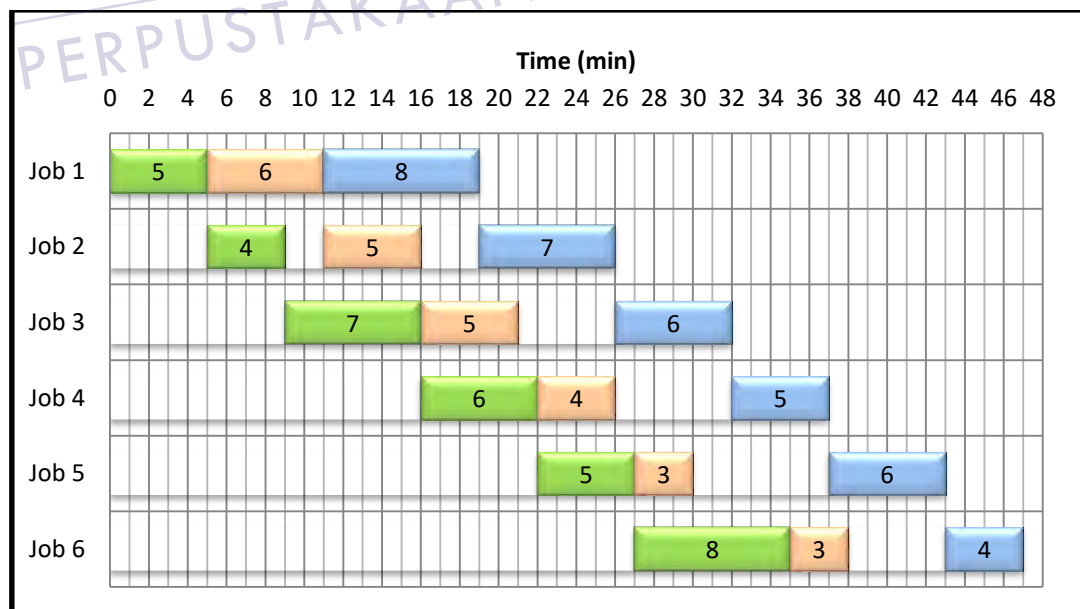


Figure 2.3: Gantt chart for the flowshop. The green, orange, and blue coloured bars represent Machine 1, Machine 2 and Machine 3 respectively (The number in each bar is the processing time in minutes) (Sidek & Bareduan, 2014)

According to Figure 2.3, the waiting time is the gap between jobs. In Permutation Flowshop Scheduling Problem (PFSP), it is imperative to minimise the waiting time as much as possible. From here, an effective arrangement of jobs (permutation) is the way to reduce the amount of waiting times.

Managing a production process that has some involvement with the scheduling process is not an easy task. Moreover, the literature manages to prove that the flowshop scheduling problem is under the NP-hard category (Garey et al., 2008b; Park, 1976). Researchers proposed some heuristics over the years such as Palmer heuristic (Palmer, 1965), Gupta heuristic (Gupta, 1971), CDS heuristic Campbell et al. (1970), and NEH (Nawaz, Enscore, and Ham, 1983b) heuristic. NEH heuristics is the leading heuristic in the field of flowshop scheduling. However, this heuristic also has its shortcoming and research conducted to overcome the shortcoming of NEH (Fan & Winley, 2008).

The heuristic approaches to solve the flowshop scheduling problem now developed with the adaptation of particle swarm optimization on it. For instance for flowshop scheduling problems where the researcher is finding the makespan and lateness minimization using the Particle Swarm Optimization algorithm (Tasgetiren et al., 2007a)

Researchers also used the ant colony algorithm to solve the permutational flowshop scheduling problems, which are to minimize the makespan and outsourcing cost in a single machine environment (Tavares Neto & Godinho Filho, 2011). Apart from the particle swarm optimization and ant colony, some studies used the artificial bee colony algorithm to solve the flowshop scheduling problem (Han, Duan, & Zhang, 2011; Liu & Liu, 2013; Pan, Tasgetiren, Suganthan, & Chua, 2011; Tasgetiren et al., 2010).

2.3.2 Scheduling Objectives

Scheduling systems using the heuristic approaches facilitate the matching activity decisions of a set of tasks within a period (Bard, 1995). Many researchers concern with the real problems and in the last two decades, a significant amount of research activities focused on the manufacturing management. Cerdá, Henning, & Grossmann (1997) discussed the multi-objective problem proposition intending to minimize total

tardiness, makespan, and the total number of tardy orders. The researchers used three separate objective functions. Hui & Gupta (2001) present a method to handle two separate objective functions. The presented method aimed to minimize makespan and tardiness. Chen, Lu, & Yu (2002) extend the objectives to five functions for the same type of problem.

Loukil, Teghem, & Tuytens (2005) present a multi-objective simulated annealing method. The method concern with the multi-objective production scheduling able to design a general method based on efficient schedules for a broad set of scheduling models. The researchers introduce the models to treat one machine, parallel machines, and permutation flowshops and the corresponding notations.

Janak, Floudas, Kallrath, & Vormbrock (2006) introduce a mathematical production scheduling model for multi-purpose batch plants based on multi-product industries. The objective function concerns the weighted individual functions. In this method, the main target is to maximize sales in parallel with the minimizing number of binary variables, orders satisfaction, overall demand satisfaction, resources, orders, due date order, and inventory level. Quadt & Kuhn (2007) introduce a taxonomy for flow lines with parallel machines scheduling procedures. They divide the problem concerning the production stages, the individual jobs, or the sub-problems to be solved (batching, loading, and sequencing).

Paternina-Arboleda, Montoya-Torres, Acero-Dominguez, & Herrera-Hernandez (2008) propose a k -stage Jobs Schedule algorithm based on the identification and exploitation of the bottleneck stage. They consider minimizing the makespan problem of k stages and m s machines at any stage. The results observed smaller variance and less computational requirements.

Kulcsar & Forrai (2009) propose new modelling based on rescheduling the discrete production scheduling. They solve the problem of multi-objective scheduling and rescheduling using a new interpretation relational operator. The results were encouraging for the application of the method in multi-objective optimization problems. Based on the present literature, the author can conclude that the scheduling objectives can be classified into four types as presented in the next sections.

2.3.2.1 Minimize the Flow Time

The problem of minimizing average flow time on identical parallel machines has received much attention in the past few years. Leonardi & Raz (2007) showed that the Shortest Remaining Processing Time (SRPT) algorithm has a competitive ratio. The same authors also showed a matching lower bound on the competitive ratio of any on-line (randomized) algorithm for this problem. It is worth to note that this setting produced the leading results in the off-line setting of this problem. Garg, Kumar, & Muralidhara (2008) gave on-line algorithms for minimizing average flow-time on related machines with a poly-logarithmic competitive ratio. Much less is known when we impose the constraint that a job can be scheduled only on a subset of machines.

2.3.2.2 Minimize the Makespan

Minimize the makespan means to complete all jobs as soon as possible. Several published papers focused on the flowshop problem for makespan minimization. For instance, Grabowski & Pempera (2007) propose two tabu search (TS) algorithms. Wang, Zhang and Zheng (2006) proposed a hybrid genetic algorithm (HGA), Liu, Wang and Jin (2008) proposed a hybrid algorithm based on particle swarm optimization (HPSO) and Qian, Wang, Huang, Wang and Wang (2009) took the differential evolution (DE) as inspiration and later, Qian, Wang, Huang and Wang (2009) adapted the methodology to the multicriteria case. Wang, Pan, Suganthan, Wang, & Wang, (2010) proposed a Hybrid Discrete Differential Evolution (HDDE) and Ribas, Companys, & Tort-Martorell (2011) proposed an iterated greedy (IG) algorithm to work on the makespan minimization.

2.3.2.3 Minimize Job Lateness

One of the more common scheduling problems in batch production involves the trade-off between achieving batch size efficiency and meeting customer due dates. At one extreme, scheduling large batches means that relatively little time spent for setup, and, as a result, efficiency is high. However, long runs on a given product may mean that the company will miss the due dates for other products. At the other extreme, scheduling based on due dates aligns priorities with customer needs, but the shorter runs mean more substantial amounts of setup time, and, as a result, capacity may become inadequate to meet demand on time (McMahon & Florian, 1975; Uzsoy, Lee, & Martin-Vega, 1992; Hinder & Mason, 2017; Allahverdi & Allahverdi, 2018).

2.3.2.4 Minimize Average Tardiness

Average tardiness represents the order time difference due to the actual completion time and the due date. Scheduling, according to this performance measure, helps companies offer a high service level to their customers, which is essential for survival in the market. To minimize job earliness and tardiness, Zhu & Heady (2000) developed a mixed-integer programming formulation for multi-machine scheduling problems. The study managed to come out with a model that is useful for finding the optimal solutions for problems with nine jobs and three machines. Yalaoui & Chu (2002) used an exact method to minimize the tardiness in an identical parallel machine scheduling. The study proposed a branch and bound (BAB) algorithm to do the optimization which covers the theoretical properties, upper and lower bounds.

2.4 Metaheuristic Optimization methods

Practitioners use scheduling as a decision-making practice regularly in many manufacturing and services industries. For this reason, researchers developed several algorithms to optimize one or more objectives with the allocation of resources to work on over given periods. In this section, the researcher will provide a survey of the most

prominent and successful meta-heuristic algorithms used to solve the scheduling problem. Heuristic techniques are any method for solving hard problems. The researchers used these methods to speed up the process of finding a satisfactory solution when classic methods are less efficient or for finding an approximate solution when classic methods fail to find any exact solution.

The algorithms managed to achieve this excellent feature by trading optimality, completeness, accuracy, or precision for speed. In a way, it can be considered a shortcut. Principal considerations in creative problem solving are the need for an adequate knowledge base. The type of heuristics that the practitioners choose to apply to a given problem area is "vitally important but largely unexplored". Thus, the method maintains the feasible solution throughout the procedure of searching proceed by moving from one feasible solution to one of its neighbours while improving the objective function (Gupta, Zanakis, & Mandokovic, 1988).

Johnson (1954) proposed a method of scheduling for two machines with the aim to find the optimal sequence for the jobs to minimize makespan. The method managed to reduce the amount of idle time between the two machines and it is also worked with three machines but with some restrictions. Lee (1997) provided the extension of the Johnson's rule (method) by considering the constraint in the availability of machines. This is because in some scenarios, one of the machines need to be stopped due to breakdown or preventive maintenance and the production still must proceed. From here, Lee (1997) proposed two-time heuristic algorithms.

Palmer algorithm is used to perform scheduling in a simple flowshop with more than two machines and the objective of the algorithm is to achieve the minimum completion time. One advantage of using Palmer algorithm is the low computational time complexity because of the simplicity of the algorithm (Palmer, 1965). Hong, Huang and Horng (2006) proposed a combination of Longest-Processing-Time-first (LPT) and Palmer algorithms to solve flexible flow-shop problems with more than two machines. The propose algorithm generated competitive results and with more time allocated for the computation, better results can be achieved. Hundal and Rajgopal (1988) proposed an extension of Palmer heuristics by adding some set of computational mechanism. With the minor extension, the heuristic managed to perform better than other more sophisticated competitor.

In the field of scheduling, several rules are commonly used by the researchers and industry partners. One of the common rules is the First Come First Serve (FCFS) which is also known as First In First Out (FIFO). In this rule, the job is processed as soon as it enters the production system (Xoxa, Zotaj, Tafa & Fejzaj, 2014). Another rule is the Last Come, First Served (LCFS) where the last job that enter the queue will be processed first. An example for LCFS is in a warehouse where the items are stacked on each other and when they need to be used, the operator will choose the uppermost item first (Jouini, 2012). He and Alfa (1998) reported that in the field of advanced telephone networks, LCFS is more efficient than FCFS.

The Earliest Due Date (EDD) rule prioritizes jobs based on the due dates where the job with the nearest due date will be processed first. EDD scheduling is ideal for products that are not behind-schedule in the context of many problem formulations (Wu, Yin & Cheng, 2011). Roychowdhury, Allen and Allen (2017) proposed a GA based on the EDD rule for the automotive stamping operations. Another well-known rule is the Shortest Processing Time (SPT) which arrange jobs in the order of increasing processing times. The job with the shortest processing time will be worked on first and this rule is able to minimize the number of jobs completed at any point (Zhou, Feng & Han, 2001). According to Qi, Bard and Yu (2006), although SPT can minimize the average flow time and average number of jobs, it will be pushed back the long job in the schedule.

In hard problems and to find efficient optimal solutions, meta-heuristics algorithms are higher-level heuristic that designed to find, generate, or select a heuristic (partial search algorithm). Meta-heuristics algorithms are the iterative generation process that guides a secondary heuristic for exploring and exploiting the search space. The literature divides the meta-heuristics algorithms into two categories; trajectory and population-based searches (Blum & Roli, 2003; Talbi, 2009; Toutouh, 2015), as shown in Figure 2.4.

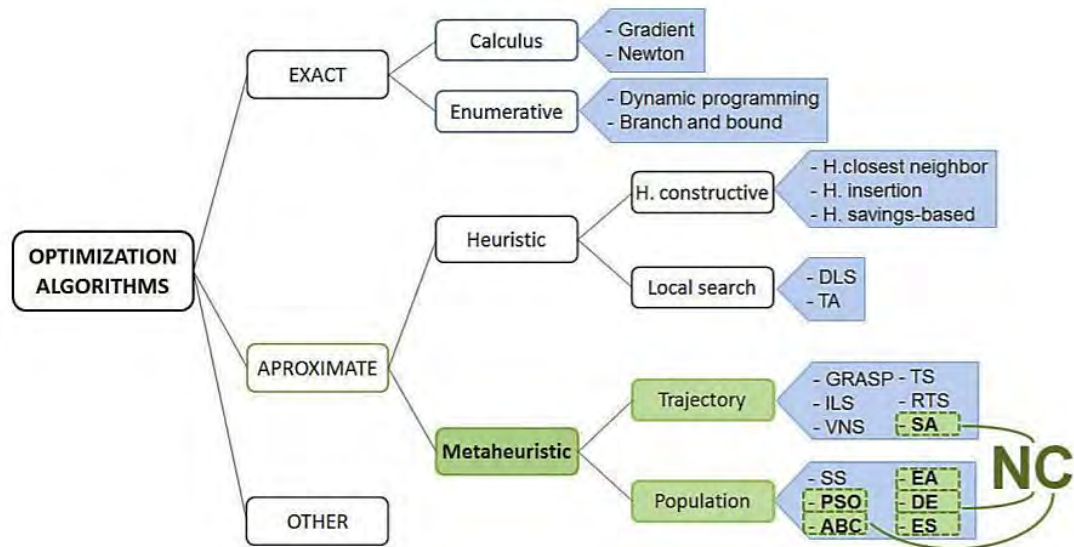


Figure 2.4: General classification of the optimization techniques (Toutouh, 2015)

Natural Computing (NC) is a process of developing artificial systems inspired by nature. The inspiration from nature is used to develop algorithms to solve complex problems. The first mathematical model of a neuron, proposed by McCulloch & Pitts (1943) becomes the foundation base of Artificial Neural Network. After that, nature-inspired optimization techniques are divided into three groups (de Castro, 2006; Toutouh, 2015):

- i. Evolutionary Computing (EC), that utilize the ideas of the evolution of species to develop Evolutionary Algorithms (EAs).
- ii. Swarm Intelligence (SI), that is inspired by the movement and behaviour of organisms.
- iii. Artificial Immune Systems (AIS), that is used to develop models based on the immune systems.

However, there is also a bio-inspired algorithm that does not fall into any categories mentioned above such as Simulated Annealing (SA).

2.4.1 PSO Optimization

The PSO algorithm has several features, such as a new encoding scheme, the implementation of the best velocity equation and neighbourhood topology among several different variants, and effective incorporation of local search. For this reason, researchers applied this algorithm to job schedule processes (Yi, 2016). PSO is known to exploits particles to search for areas with high-quality solutions. Each particle moves in the search space in the preset velocity with the previous high-quality memories as guidance (Md Fauadi & Murata, 2010).

Tasgetiren, Sevkli, Liang, & Gencyilmaz (2004) proposed a discrete particle swarm optimization algorithm to determine a sequence of n jobs for the method to process through m machines that minimize the number of tardy jobs. The group implemented the algorithms using the due date configurations of the data sets by Demirkol, Mehta, & Uzsoy (1998). The study concluded that the particle swarm optimization algorithm gives promising solutions utilizing the proposed SPV (Smallest Position Value) heuristic rule.

Liao, Tseng, & Luarn (2007) presented a PSO-LS algorithm by extending from discrete PSO for flowshop scheduling. They developed the particle movement to the new sequence and incorporated a local search scheme into the proposed algorithm. Computational results show that the proposed algorithm is exceptionally modest in case of a total flowtime criterion.

Lian, Gu, and Jiao (2008) presented a novel particle swarm optimization (NPSO) algorithm, which applied to permutation flow-shop scheduling to minimize makespan. The algorithm applied based on the discrete characteristic of FSSP, and the results observed more efficacious than standard GA for FSSP to minimize makespan.

Tseng and Liao (2008) solved the multistage hybrid flow-shop scheduling problem with multiprocessor tasks by using particle swarm optimization (PSO). Based on the results, the proposed PSO algorithm seems to perform better compared to all the existing algorithms for the considered problem.

Sha and Hung Lin (2009) proposed a particle swarm optimization-based multiobjective algorithm for flowshop scheduling to meet the requirements of realistic manufacturing systems. The proposed evolutionary algorithm searches the Pareto optimal solution for objectives by considering the makespan, mean flow time, and

machine idle time. The results show that the modified particle swarm optimization algorithm performed better in terms of searching quality and efficiency than other traditional heuristics.

Li, Pan, and Mao (2014) presented a hybrid algorithm by combining particle swarm optimization (PSO) and iterated local search (ILS) for solving the hybrid flowshop scheduling (HFS) problem with preventive maintenance (PM) activities. The ILS-based local search procedure is embedded in the algorithm to improve the exploitation ability of the proposed algorithm. Detailed comparisons verify the efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed algorithm.

Ramanan, Iqbal, and Umarali (2014) used a particle swarm optimization (PSO) approach for optimizing the makespan of an FSSP. In this method, the group employed a Variable neighbourhood search (VNS) to overcome the early convergence of the PSO and helps in global search. The experimental results show that the solution quality of FSSP can be improved if the method can direct the search in a quality space based on the proposed PSO approach (PSO-NEH-VNS).

Given the swarm behaviour is tested for solving a combinatorial optimization problem such as a sequencing problem under constraints. The computational results show that this approach outperforms the compared methods in terms of the quality of solutions in short time requirements. Also, the researchers evaluated the performance of the proposed approach according to a real-world industrial problem.

The reasons for PSO algorithm to be favourable by some researchers because of its simplicity and easy implementation. However, PSO algorithm tends to fall easily into local optimum especially in complex problems (Choi, Ohmori, Yoshimoto, & Ohtake, 2010). The algorithm also suffers the issue of premature convergence and this is the main reason for the improvements made by previous researchers (Abdmouleh et al., 2017; Li, Du, & Nian, 2014; Yi, 2016). PSO also known to be problematic with a problems of scattering and the task to define the initial design parameters might not be straight forward (Abdmouleh et al., 2017).

2.4.2 Ant Colony Optimization

ACO algorithms are population-based search algorithms based on the food hunting patterns of real ants that utilize agents (ants), single or multiple, to construct the optimal solution iteratively.

Rajendran and Ziegler (2004) focused on the problem of scheduling in permutation flowshops by using two ACO algorithms to minimize the sum of the total flow time of jobs and makespan. The group evaluated the effectiveness of the proposed ant-colony algorithms by considering the benchmark problems and upper bound values for the makespan given by E. Taillard (1993). It has found that both the proposed ant-colony algorithms perform well than the existing ant-colony algorithm in the case of relatively large-sized than small-sized permutation flowshop problems.

Shyu, Lin, and Yin (2004) developed an ACO-based algorithm to solve the two-machine flowshop scheduling problem with no waiting between operations and including set up time. They have shown that the ACO algorithms outperform previous algorithms and considered to be effective and robust in dealing with the said scheduling problems.

Rajendran and Ziegler (2005) proposed two ACO-based algorithms to minimize the total flow time in permutation flow-shops. The algorithm generates an initial seed sequence and carries out a local search at the end of each iteration. The authors observed that it is not possible to identify one heuristic that is best for the entire set of benchmark problems.

Yagmahan and Yenisey (2008) introduced ACO for minimizing multi-objectives, including makespan, total flow time, and total machine idle time. The computational results show that the proposed algorithm is more effective and better than other methods compared.

Zhou, Lee, and Nee (2008) proposed ant colony optimization for dynamic jobs scheduling problems and showed that ACO performed excellently, but the however performance of ACO does not improve with increasing the iterations and ants per iteration. They have also concluded that the ACO can be enhanced when the machine utilization increases.

Yagmahan and Yenisey (2010) considered the flowshop scheduling problem concerning the minimization of both objectives of makespan and total flow time. The

proposed algorithm based on the ACS metaheuristic called a multi-objective ant colony system algorithm (MOACSA). They concluded that the proposed MOACSA performs better than CR (MC) algorithm, HAMC algorithms, and GA for said multi-objective flowshop scheduling problem.

Rabanimotlagh (2011) developed the ant colony optimization algorithm to solve the permutation flowshop scheduling problem. This problem is optimized considering two criteria, makespan and total flow time. Then the results observed that the proposed approach performs best among all other algorithms.

Zhong and Zhang (2012) improved ACO algorithm to solve the PFSP, which takes the minimum of makespan as the objective function. Also, they integrate NEH heuristic with ACO for scheduling problems cooperatively, define the heuristic information of ACO via makespan increment, and come up with a new priority rule for PFSP. The experiment results show that the proposed algorithm is productive and competitive.

Chen, Zhang, and Ma (2013) present a novel hybrid ant colony optimization (ACO&VNS) to solve the permutation flow-shop scheduling problem (PFS) in manufacturing systems and industrial processes. The main feature of this hybrid algorithm is to hybridize the solution construction mechanism of the ACO with variable neighbourhood search (VNS), which can also be embedded into the ACO algorithm as a neighbourhood search to improve solutions. Moreover, the hybrid algorithm considers both solution diversification and solution quality. The experimental results for benchmark PFS instances have shown that the hybrid algorithm is very efficient in solving the permutation flow-shop scheduling in manufacturing engineering compared with the best existing methods in terms of solution quality.

ACO is suitable for problems with specific and predefined sources and destinations. It is an algorithm with great capabilities, but its weaknesses should be taken into consideration. The theoretical analysis of utilizing ACO is not easy and it requires some extra effort with the initial settings. ACO is also known to be not independent because it operates on the sequence of random decisions (Selvi & Umarani, 2010). The probability distribution of ACO are said to change by iteration and it also suffers the weakness of poor global search ability (Cui & Han, 2013; Zhang, Xiao, & Fei, 2017). The convergence is guaranteed for ACO but the time for convergence is uncertain. Some researchers mentioned the convergence rate of the

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